

REMARKS

The priority claim has been amended to claim continuation-in-part status of commonly owned co-pending U.S. Application Serial No. 08/891,456, now U.S. Patent No. 6,123,725 (the '725 Patent). Walid N. Aboul-Hosn is an inventor common to the '725 Patent and the instant application.

Claims 2-5, 7 and 12-16 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 6, 8-11 and 17 remain pending in the application.

The claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on Aboul-Hosn U.S. 6,123,725. Applicant's claim of priority to the '725 Patent eliminates the '725 Patent as prior art as to the instant application. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks and allowance of claims 1, 6, 8-11 and 17 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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